The New York Times
Times Square

December 4, 1963

Dear Mr. Davidson,

Mr. Catledge has turned over to me a copy of your letter to Mr. Sulzberger.

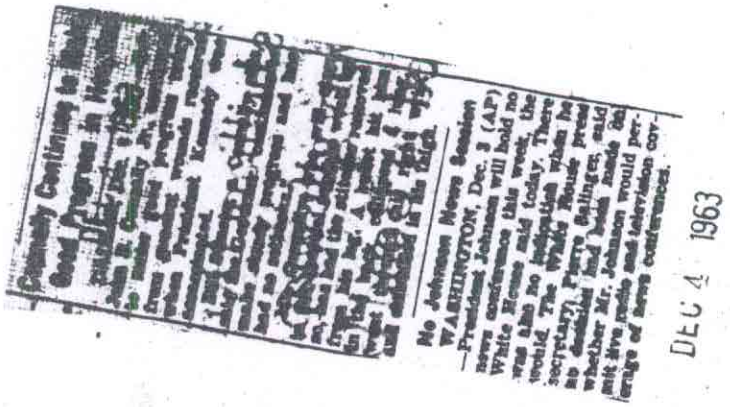
The points which you raise were ones which came to our attention very early in the painstaking inquiry which our reporters have been making into the President's death. Let me take them up in sequence.

As to the question of the President being shot in the front of his throat, it is clearly demonstrated by the film clip from which the Life Magazine photographs were taken that the President was turning to his right at the moment of the first shot. The angle was lateral, and the first shot caught the President in the ear when he was only slightly forward of the window. The diagram which accompanied the Life Magazine pictures was deceptive insofar as the line of fire is concerned. We feel extremely certain about this point, because it has been carefully gone over and checked by Mr. Oscar Godbout, our Field and Stream Editor, who has marshalled the best sharpshooting specialists on this particular point.

On the question of the bullets -- only three bullets have been recovered. Only three shots were fired. One bullet was recovered from the President's body, one was found on the stretcher, and one was found shattered in the car. There were three empty cartridge cases found on the sixth floor of the book depository building. There is no evidence whatever that more than three shots were fired.

As to the transcripts or records of the interrogation, there is no indication whatever that they have been destroyed. We feel confident that they will be presented, either in the F.B.I. report or the President's Commission report.

It is certainly true that it is possible that Oswald did not kill the President. It is possible that Oswald was the scapegoat of a conspiracy. But I will say with all the force at my command that the most minute and exhaustive investigation of every clue and suspicion which



No Johnson News Session

—President Johnson will hold no news conference this week, the White House said today. There was also no indication when Johnson would hold his next news conference.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (AP)

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said he doubted that Mr. Johnson would hold a news conference next week. Salinger said whether Mr. Johnson would permit live radio and television coverage of news conferences.

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has come to the attention of our very alert team of reporters (and we have from six to 12 men working on this story every day) has failed to support any version other than the one with which you are familiar, namely that Oswald did kill the President, that it was an individual act, and that his slaying was also an individual event.

With every good wish,

Harrison E. Salisbury
Director of National Correspondence

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